

**From:** scorthell  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/21/02 9:04am  
**Subject:** Microsoft

16800 Sharp Road  
Sidney, OH 45365-

January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing to address the current agreement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. I believe the whole lawsuit was unwarranted. The Federal Government had no business in pursuing Microsoft. Microsoft is a successful company. Bill Gates has tried to make Microsoft the biggest and the best. But isn't that what you are suppose to do? I am very irritated with the concept nowadays that being too successful is wrong. Since when does the federal government define what amount of success we should have? Further, I am quite sure that Microsoft's competitors had some input in the lawsuit. They could not compete in the open market; therefore, sought to cripple Microsoft through political means.

The antitrust laws were created to protect the consumer. Microsoft did not harm the consumer. Bill Gates, through Microsoft, has enabled the average consumer to have access to the technological age, at an affordable price. The consumer has chosen Microsoft, not another brand. That is our choice. Is the Federal Government now dictating what companies we have to buy from?

Microsoft has addressed the demands of the Justice Department by agreeing to grant computer makers wide-ranging new rights to configure Windows to promote non-Microsoft software programs that compete with programs included within Windows. Microsoft will share any code or programming that Window uses to communicate with other programs. Microsoft has agreed to a technical committee to monitor future actions. I think Microsoft has more than done its share.

I support this agreement. I ask that you please do so also. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephen Corthell

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